

Message Text

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DEPT PASS CIEP AND AGRICULTURE FOR FRASER/FAS AND ROJKO/ERS

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SUBJECT: OECD SECGEN PROPOSAL FOR A STUDY OF TRENDS IN SUPPLY AND DEMAND OF MAJOR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

1. MISSION TRANSMITS BELOW FULL TEXT OF SECGEN VAN LENNEP'S PROPOSAL FOR A STUDY OF TRENDS IN SUPPLY AND DEMAND OF MAJOR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES. PROPOSAL WAS RECEIVED TODAY AS DOCUMENT C (73)223.

2. MISSION BELIEVES THAT PROPOSED STUDY WOULD COVER ESSENTIAL GROUND DESIRED BY US AND THAT IT IS ABOUT MAXIMUM COUNCIL LIKELY TO ACCEPT IN LIGHT OF XCSS DISCUSSION NOVEMBER 9. (SEE USOECD 29069 AND 29065). IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, MISSION PLANS SUPPORT PROPOSAL, AS NECESSARY, WHEN IT IS DISCUSSED BY COUNCIL DECEMBER 11 AND TO AGREE TO DRAFT ENTRY IN COUNCIL MINUTES SET OUT IN PARA. 7, C(73)223.

3. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE USDA/ERS ADVICE ON AVAILABILITY OF ERS WORKING PAPERS TO OECD SECRETARIAT ON PROPOSED STUDY.

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4. BEGIN TEXT:

1. AT ITS 5TH SPECIAL SESSION THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONSIDERED A PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY THE U.S. DELEGATION FOR A STUDY AIMED AT ASSESSING WORLD DEMAND AND SUPPLY CONDITIONS IN THE GRAIN-FEED-LIVESTOCK SECTOR AND OF THE EFFECTS OF ALTERNATIVE POLICIES (CE(73)17). THE COMMITTEE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO CARRY OUT A STUDY OF THE TRENDS IN SUPPLY AND DEMAND OF MAJOR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AND OF THE FACTORS WHICH HAVE A BEARING ON THESE TRENDS. THE COMMITTEE ALSO ASKED THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO MAKE A PROPOSAL TO THE COUNCIL AS TO THE NATURE OF THE STUDY AND THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION (CES/CRE(73) 30, ITEM 5).

2. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IS THEREFORE SUBMITTING TO THE COUNCIL, FOR APPROVAL, THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION OF THE OBJECT OF A STUDY OF TRENDS IN FOOD SUPPLY AND DEMAND WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE DISCUSSION IN THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION:

"THE OBJECT OF THE STUDY IS TO IDENTIFY THE MAIN FACTORS WHICH HAVE A BEARING ON THE TRENDS OF WORLD SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR THE MAJOR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES (CEREALS, FEEDSTUFFS AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS) AND TO ASSESS THE EXTENT TO WHICH THESE FACTORS CAN BE INFLUENCED BY VARIOUS POLICY MEASURES.

"ON THIS BASIS THE POSSIBLE TRENDS FOR WORLD SUPPLY, DEMAND AND TRADE FOR THESE COMMODITIES IN THE NEXT TEN TO FIFTEEN YEARS WILL BE REVIEWED."

3. AS FOR THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STUDY, TWO APPROACHES HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED. THE FIRST CALLS FOR THE SETTING-UP OF A GROUP OF INDEPENDENT EXPERTS, AND THE SECOND AIMS AT REQUESTING THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO UNDERTAKE THE STUDY UNDER HIS RESPONSIBILITY. TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE DISCUSSION IN THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT ITS 5TH SPECIAL SESSION, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL RECOMMENDS TO THE COUNCIL THAT HE BE ENTRUSTED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CARRYING OUT THE STUDY.

4. IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE REPORT RESULTING FROM THE STUDY WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION AND TO THE COUNCIL AND OTHER BODIES HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT, IN PARTICULAR TO THE COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE. THE REPORT SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION IN ABOUT A YEAR'S TIME.

5. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS STUDY WILL REQUIRE

CONSIDERATION OF SEVERAL IMPORT SUBJECT AREAS FOR WHICH THE SECRETARIAT IS LACKING THE NECESSARY EXPERTISE. THESE AREAS INCLUDE THE ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBLE TRENDS IN THE USSR AND CHINA, THE ASSESSMENT OF LONG-TERM TECHNOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS FOR CROPS AND LIVESTOCK, IN PARTICULAR IN NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES, ETC. IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE ACQUISITION OF THIS KNOWLEDGE, WITHIN THE BUDGETARY MEANS AVAILABLE TO THE ORGANIZATION, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WILL ASK MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO CO-OPERATE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS STUDY BY MAKING AVAILABLE TO THE SECRETARIAT, IN THE MOST APPROPRIATE MANNER, THE SPECIALISED KNOWLEDGE THAT MAY EXIST IN THEIR COUNTRIES FROM BOTH OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL SOURCES ON THE VARIOUS QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED. THIS WILL BE DONE BOTH BY MEANS OF ANSWERING QUESTIONNAIRES AND BY PROVIDING EXPERTS WITH WHOM THE SECRETARIAT MAY WISH TO CONSULT ON SPECIFIC QUESTIONS. MOREOVER, THE 1974 PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE ORGANISATION IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE WILL NEED TO BE CARRIED OUT IN A FLEXIBLE MANNER IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR THE COMPLETION OF THIS STUDY.

6. IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST MADE AT THE 5TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WISHES TO INFORM THE COUNCIL THAT THE FAO HAS CONDUCTED AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY PROJECTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1980 AND IS PLANNING TO CARRY OUT IN 1975 (FOR PUBLICATION IN 1976) A NEW SET OF COMMODITY PROJECTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1985, AND POSSIBLY FOR A SUBSEQUENT DATE. THE TRENDS OF FOOD SUPPLY AND DEMAND ARE LIKELY TO BE STUDIED ALSO BY THE U.N. AGENCIES IN PREPARATION FOR THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR THE END OF 1974. THE OECD HAD CONDUCTED IN 1968 COMMODITY PROJECTIONS FOR ITS MEMBER COUNTRIES FOR 1975 AND 1985. THE OECD IS ALSO CONDUCTING REGULARLY MEDIUM-TERM FORECASTS FOR SOME MAJOR AGRICULTURAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRODUCTS. ALL THIS WORK WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN CARRYING OUT THE STUDY UNDER CONSIDERATION, AS SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH 2.

7. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL THEREFORE INVITES THE COUNCIL TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING DRAFT ENTRY IN ITS MINUTES:

"THE COUNCIL

(A) APPROVED THE CARRYING OUT OF A STUDY OF THE TRENDS IN SUPPLY AND DEMAND OF MAJOR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, AS WELL AS THE PRECISE OBJECT OF THE STUDY AS DEFINED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE C(73)223;

(B) ENTRUSTED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CARRYING OUT THIS STUDY ACCORDING TO THE METHOD OF WORK EXPLAINED IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF C(73)223;

(C) INVITED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO KEEP THE COUNCIL

INFORMED ABOUT THE COMPLETION OF THE STUDY."

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